(c) the terms of reference proposed for the Commission; and

(d) the time expected to be required by the Commission to complete its work?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) In pursuance of Supreme Court direction in the case of Indira Sawhney and others Vs. Union of India, a permanent Commission namely National Commission for Backward Class has already been set up under NCBC Act, 1993.

(b) Under Section 3(2) of the NCBC Act, 1993, the Commission consists of the following Members nominated by the Central Government:—

(a) a Chairperson, who is or has been a judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court;

(b) a social scientists;

(c) two persons, who have special knowledge in matters relating to backward classes;

(d) a Member-Secretary, who is or has been an officer of the Central Government in the rank of Secretary to the Govt. of India.

(c) The Commission is to examine requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the lists and hear complaints of over inclusions of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate.

(d) This is a permanent body which functions on continuous basis to examine the issues/complaints of over-inclusion of under-inclusion of any backward class in Central list.

मध्य प्रदेश में रायपुर के देवभोग क्षेत्र में हीरे का खनन

991. श्री राघवजी: क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने गत दो माह में रायपुर के निकट देवभोग क्षेत्र में हीरों के उत्खनन कार्य संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उस प्रस्ताव कर क्या कार्रवाई की है;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि उपर्युक्त खानों में उत्खनन कार्य किसी विदेशी कंपनी को सौंपा जा रहा है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) और (ङ) खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 के प्रावधानों के अनुसार पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस और खनन पट्टे भारतीय नागरिकों या कंपनी अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 की उप धारा के अंतर्गत बतायी गई किसी कंपनी को ही दिया जा सकता है। इसलिए किसी विदेशी कंपनी को खनन अधिकार की स्वीकृति देने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Opening of Foreign Lids For Government Purchases

992. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi dated the 9th October, 1996 under the caption "Allow foreign lids for Government purchases" US;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During his 2 day visit to India on 8-9 October' 96, the Dy. US Trade Representative Ambassador Jeffrey Lang had, among other things, brought up some issues including the possibility of India joining the plurilateral Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) under World Trade Organisation (WTO). Under this Agreement, signatories can bid for Government Contracts in each other's markets. India is not a signatory to the GPA and all aspects of the matter would have to be carefully considered by us before taking any steps in the direction of acceding to the GPA.